



A sad tale about losing a family pet? You must joking! *Pet Sematary* is a gore filled terror tale that hits even harder than the film's featured juggernauts. Lets enjoy the ride...

One of the most successful film adaptations of any Stephen King story to date, *Pet Sematary*, takes a rich and deeply disturbing premise - the collapse of the American family - and turns it into a shock-a-minute horror show that really delivers the goods for those who can take it.

Stylishly directed by *Siesta's* Mary Lambert, the film begins as young doctor Dale Midkiff moves from Chicago with his wife Denise Crosby and their two young children to a picturesque rural backwater in Maine. The only problem is that their new home is situated a scant distance from a busy highway, down which huge tanker trucks zoom at high speed as if they are competing in the Indy 500.

The highway is so dangerous that hundreds of pets have been splattered on it, and kindly neighbour Fred Gwynne (better known as Herman Munster) shows his new neighbours the pet cemetery behind the house where the local children have buried their beloved animals. Shortly thereafter, Dr Midkiff sees a patient in the emergency room, a young jogger who has been hit by a truck and has had his head split open. Despite Midkiff's valiant efforts to save him, the

young man dies, only to come back in *American Werewolf* fashion as an increasingly decayed ghost-cum-guardian angel who warns the doctor not to meddle with the supernatural. As if he would, eh?

The shaken Midkiff tries to ignore these ghastly visions, but when the family cat is run over he buries the animal in an Indian burial ground just past the pet cemetery. The ground there is rumoured to possess magical qualities, and sure enough the flattened feline returns from the grave, though with a marked change in disposition!

Soon afterwards Midkiff's baby son also wanders onto the highway and into the path of a juggernaut. The distraught Midkiff decides that if the resurrection process works for a cat it could work for humans too. So after his son's funeral he digs him up and puts the body in the Indian burial ground. Predictably, this turns out to be a very bad mistake. His son does indeed come back from the dead, but as a murderous zombie armed with a scalpel...

Though the film doesn't quite cut as deeply as the book did, it's a very disturbing work that takes no

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prisoners with its uncompromisingly brutal approach. In the end what makes it a classic of its kind is the film's sheer accumulation of

horrendous detail, from the sub plot about Crosby's horribly malformed sister to the bloodthirsty final scenes with the infant zombie slashing his

way through half the cast. This is a horror film that really horrifies, and we're sure that most of you will really dig it!

